CAMPAIGN 1992 - NBC NIGHTLY NEW REPORTS (JUNE)

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From June 1992, NBC Nightly news reports of the 1992 Presidential campaign.

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american presidential primary season ends tomorrow 15 weeks after new hampshire george bush of course has a republican nomination locked up already and tuesday's five primaries are expected to put bill clinton over the top of the democrats today clinton talked about education with high school students in central california one of tuesday's five primary states clinton has six weeks until the democratic convention in new york to choose a running mate clinton's sole remaining challenger jerry brown was talking about the environment today he has won the california primary before against jimmy carter in 1976. ross perot was not campaigning today but his wife margot told nbc's jamie gangall that she was pushing her husband to choose a woman as his running mate and she said the most important issue to her is abortion on which she is pro-choice i think they're extenuating circumstances where an abortion might be the best choice and certainly the choice that should be made by that individual nightly news with tom brokaw reporting tonight from nbc news headquarters in new york good evening it seems as if it has been going on for years and for several lifetimes for bill clinton but in fact it was less than four months ago that this presidential primary ordeal began in the snows of new hampshire without ross perot when it ended today in sunny california and five other states perrault was very much in the minds and in the hearts of many voters as clinton was securing the democratic nomination nbc's andrea mitchell tonight on what that means now for clinton andrea tom bill clinton will be celebrating tonight as he clinches the nomination but he'll also be trying to figure out how to get his nomination back on track he had hoped the california primary would help propel him into the fall campaign as the chief spokesman for angry disenchanted voters change the country not to be nominated so i have a lot to celebrate a lot to be

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so i have a lot to celebrate a lot to be grateful for he is certainly not grateful for ross perot who now is viewed as the anti-washington candidate it's time to pick up a shovel and go clean out the barn much to his frustration clinton is viewed as just another politician a perception he is trying to change i don't know how it happened but i know that beginning tomorrow i'm going back out with the message i started with and in california clinton was being hammered by native son jerry brown his sole remaining challenger at the democratic convention i am hoping that the delegates take a second look at who our nominee ought to be in los angeles today clinton is trying to figure out how to recover i have to show a deeper commitment i have to touch people where they live i have to show them that i'm the candidate who understands their stresses their pain their anger and that i've got a plan to turn this country around one major turn came after losing to paul songus in new hampshire to eliminate songs clinton hurt himself by sounding more and more like a traditional democrat when people were paying attention to the campaign last winter what they heard about clinton often had more to do with alleged character problems than policy proposals the draft the marijuana question his marriage the clintons are still trying to repair the damage last week with david frost sometimes it's hard to get to sleep we start talking again you know it's it's like we just met please and with voters now expressing their preference for an independent not even on the ballot in california clinton is trying to shore up

his democratic base in recent days he's spoken to jewish groups labor gay organizations women's groups and almost every sunday preaches his anti-establishment theme in a black popular today when church see me they reach in their pockets to make sure their billfolds are standing clinton told nbc today that if he gets the delegates he expects today brown and the other contenders should endorse him but brown of course said that he won't

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but brown of course said that he won't andre you you're there at the clinton headquarters in california tonight what message does he want to emphasize now on how does he intend to get that out because i know a lot of his campaign managers are very unhappy with the press these days they plan to try to go around the press tom they're going to try to do more non-traditional television for one thing that they're going to try to go on other shows such as the david frost show that he just did they're going to buy satellite time taking a page out of ross perot's playbook and they're also tomorrow going to do arsenio uh clinton is going to play his saxophone thank you very much andrea mitchell tonight in los angeles nbc's john chancellor has been looking at what all the voters today were thinking about and ross perot came up very high on their agenda i gather john we found a lot of perot strength as we polled voters in alabama california new jersey and ohio about half of those democrats and republicans who described themselves as independents said they would vote for perot in november significant numbers of democrats and republicans who voted for george bush in 1988 told us today that they would vote for ross perot in november democrats in our poll today were asked how they would vote in november in california they stayed loyal to their party for the democrat but in ohio maybe perot that looks like a toss-up among democrats in new jersey the democratic candidate will win according to the democrats they would vote for him and the same in alabama and we put the same question to republicans who were tallied today as they came out of polling places in california there's a lot of perot strength the californians might vote for him in the fall in ohio it was republican in new jersey it was republican in alabama it was republican we find as we found before that republicans have a lot of party loyalty the republicans may have a problem with abortion large numbers of people in our survey today republicans said they wanted abortion kept legal and that might be trouble for the republicans at their convention we asked people if

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at their convention we asked people if the government would work better if we elected all new people this year democrats in all the states that elect all new people this year republicans generally said no tom and that's where we stand now all right thank you very much john chancellor tonight president bush of course wrapped up the republican nomination some time ago but as those california and other voters demonstrated today his political problems in many ways are only getting worse nbc's john cochran tonight at the white house john tom the president is trying to do what presidents always do when they're in trouble look presidential bush tackled a big domestic agenda today meeting with california officials on the aftermath of the la riots then talking up his health care plan and finally pushing for a balanced budget amendment but at the end of the day nothing much had happened which sums up what many voters think of bush's domestic efforts mayors from all over the country told him he had to get tougher with congress i think our advice today collectively was to toughen up the articulation of the urban agenda and to force it to a vote in in congress using the considerable powers of the presidency but lately bush has tried cooperation instead of confrontation with congress back in march bush wanted a shootout with congress to campaign against a do-nothing congress as harry truman did in 1948 but two things changed bush's strategy the la riots and ross perot voters began to think that perot could do more than just argue with congress and the riots convinced many voters that cities were drifting into anarchy voter confidence in bush dropped despite a mild improvement in the economy today the government said its key forecasting gauge is up almost half a percent not bad but not enough for the white house to break out the champagne new home sales were up but just barely without a strong economy bush is trying to look strong himself by pushing to rebuild inner cities through tax breaks for new businesses as for ross perot the bush campaign will

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as for ross perot the bush campaign will attack him but how hard take perot's reluctance to put homosexuals in some government jobs one of the masterminds of bush's 1988 campaign knows what he would do with that i'll just repeat what he says so far he says only part of the cabinet can be gay i don't know he's talking about maybe secretary of transportation he doesn't want him hanging around the bus terminal but bush's campaign manager bob teeter does not play hardball that hard his new idea is for bush to have a nighttime news conference this week but many in the white house think it's dumb to have a prime time news conference unless you have something new to say stay tuned campaign years a long way from being finished and so we have more on decision 92 tonight the ad battles back home tonight nbc national correspondent bob kerr looks at a favorite weapon for those running against members of congress in this country the old house bank alas is no more though the scandal it spawned has started a war keep an eye on congressman a coin and follow the bouncing check oh yeah the bounce checks 80 of them for over sixty thousand dollars it's fought day after day on the air by challengers giving incumbents a scare congresswoman barbara boxer says she wants to go to the senate to fix the system shake it up she sure shook things up at the house bank with 143 bounce checks forty one thousand dollars worth lowry and weber wiley and smith they called it quits rather than get hit with this one christmas eve then prosecuting attorney beryl anthony arrested a woman for bouncing one 324 dollar check for christmas she spent the holidays in jail as congressman beryl anthony bounced 109 checks for more than fifty seven thousand dollars he didn't go to jail in fact he's asking to be re-elected theon and davis hertel and mrasik knew that escaping would take more than magic

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that escaping would take more than magic 31 house check bouncers in all preferred retirement to taking a fall okay class listen up some congressmen did some congressmen didn't congressman bob mcewen had 166 bad checks at the now closed house bank his opponent congressman clarence miller didn't have any zero zip not a one this is the year of high voter fury bouncers hayes and hubbard got their verdicts early here's another veteran who lost after learning how much bad checks can cost in the house leadership bill alexander was high but after an ad it was a quick bye bye my office never bounced one check the whole time i've been in congress and as porky pig says that's all folks bob kerr nbc news at the capitol this is nbc nightly news with tom brokaw reporting tonight from nbc news headquarters in new york good evening ross perot the self-described innocent of presidential politics demonstrated again today his shrewd sense of timing and publicity one day after he diverted most of the attention from president bush and bill clinton's primary victories perrault introduced his new campaign generals one from each side nbc's lisa myers is covering the parole candidacy lisa tom this morning official washington awakened to discover that it was not just a bad dream ross perot really could be elected president parole quickly gave the competition even more to worry about the man who vowed never to use political handlers today hired two big names former reagan campaign chairman ed rollins and former carter campaign chairman hamilton jordan president bush and governor clinton are both well good men i think that mr perrault is the future of this country

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future of this country rollins said that bush has been a good president but is not what the country needs now you've been around for as long as he has and many of his advisors it's awful hard to be to be to be the change agent this morning perrault defended his decision to surround himself with professionals very important to have people there so that we don't make learning mistakes how the people that today perrault also sounded more like the politician he says he's not five years ago pero urged the country to cut spending and raise taxes to reduce the deficit he went on to blame the problem on the american people saying we not our elected officials are the dwarfs and wimps but today the probable presidential candidate thinks differently putting more money into government is a serious mistake and i have said we will not raise taxes the billionaire populist will make his candidacy official later this month aids promise a campaign unlike any this country has ever seen parole vows to take the high road i do not engage in their tactics i will not criticize any

other candidate however only hours before he said that he took this swipe at president bush over the gulf war i will not go to war to prove my manhood at the expense of young people the question to suggest that someone goes to war to prove their manhood is a pretty strong attack political prose called perot's broad-based appeal phenomenal the question today is now whether this is an infatuation or long-lasting love but the way it looks it looks like real love but love affairs can go bad in the next few weeks are likely to be a referendum on whether perot has the ideas and the temperament to be president tom thank you lisa now let's go to john cochran at the white house where the president first tried to ignore perot and then realize he could not john tom the president has told aides that ross perot is a real threat and today the president sounded as though he expects the fight of his life the president admitted in a

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of his life the president admitted in a teleconference to california republicans that he now has two rivals so far i have not attacked my opponents in fact i i don't think you can point to one single remark against either one of them but when that convention of ours is over i'm coming out of there with my sleeves rolled up ready to take this fight to every precinct in this country meanwhile campaign chairman bob teeter is pushing bush to be more aggressive in selling himself and his policies aides say bush himself is frustrated that he is not getting his messages to the public he complains privately that tv networks broadcast only brief sound bites so bush will hold a rare prime time news conference tomorrow in the east room the setting ronald reagan's handlers chose bush used to think elaborate nighttime interrogations were phony and pretentious bush's aides hoped for a big primetime audience tomorrow but so far only cnn has agreed to a live broadcast bush may not be attacking perrault yet but today dan quayle took aim at perot's opposition to the gulf war if you look at ross pro's judgment on the persian gulf it was wrong besides attacking perot's judgment the president's surrogates are also looking for any character faults they can find anything to slow down the ross perot express tom thank you john cochran at the white house and nbc's andrea mitchell covers the clinton campaign which today was looking for a fresh start andrea tom bill clinton says he is starting over hoping he can get the american people to give him a second look he won the nomination but the final primaries had plenty of bad news for clinton in california and ohio voter turnout was low and many of those who did vote both democrats and independents said they'd defect to ross perot in the fall clinton is trying to woo them back by recasting himself as a political outsider

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outsider i am tired of seeing the people who work hard and play by the rules get the shaft appearing before abc affiliates in los angeles he tried to paint perot as the political insider seizing on today's decision to pay big bucks for top campaign operatives from both parties ross perot has been a very effective professional political operative over the last 20 years that is not the image he's trying to give off and i think that this will at least confirm that when he announced for president clinton said he would be an alternative to both political parties you started out this campaign as a new democratic voice the agent of change now for better or for worse a lot of people perceive you as another politician how did that happen and i think there's a general skepticism about anybody who's been involved in the political process but i started from the outside and i'm going back to the outside clinton also must figure out how to handle jerry brown who ran a strong second in california and still won't endorse clinton on the today program brown said perrault would hurt clinton more than bush it's going to play into the hands of president bush because it will give two places for people who are dissatisfied with with bush to go the democrat and then perot the key for bill clinton is not necessarily to tear down ross perot but to get the voters attention to take the spotlight back and make voters stand up and take notice clinton's next big chance to impress voters will be his choice of a running mate a major goal will be to create a sharp contrast with the way george bush chose dan quayle but at any rate as gerald ford once said our long national nightmare is over the presidential primary season has finally ended it has brought us two candidates for president who should be triumphant but who look instead as though they've been in a meat grinder george bush's campaign lacks luster his staff is in disarray and his poll numbers are in the cellar bill clinton is having trouble getting the president to pay any attention to his campaign and his numbers aren't so great either it makes you wonder about the legitimacy

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it makes you wonder about the legitimacy of the presidential primary system what process did the american people choose this year as the proper way for someone to run for president the low turnout undemocratic advertising bazaars of the primaries or did the people prefer the self-promotion of a political amateur who never even ran for dog catcher before this that's ross perot a clever man with a lot of money and a gift of gab which has more legitimacy the primaries that produce bush and clinton or the virgin political birth that produce perot it's a serious question not a single vote has been cast for perot but he's in the game along with the two major party candidates i think the public has found no joy or satisfaction in the endless primaries the sleazy tv ads the fake debates the non-stop polling all of that has now been threatened by one outsider one man what does that tell us about the legitimacy of the system we are using to choose our presidential candidates bush now realizes he has to do something to reclaim his place in the hearts and minds of american voters so tonight he'll borrow from the ronald reagan playbook a prime time news conference but none of the three major networks will carry it live citing the political nature of the event nbc's john cochran is at the white house tonight john tom this is not an appearance it looks promising for the president not only will viewers have to hunt for him on their dials on their tv sets but the most interesting questions are likely to be about ross perot bush thinks it would not be prudent to criticize perot himself but his official spokesman marlin fitzwater is not so squeamish saying today that unlike the president mr perrault is not willing to submit himself to press conferences another bush aide said the white house has got to go on the offensive against perot we do not wish to let the situation get out of hand there's a great deal of momentum supporting the parole candidacy at the moment the most aggressive campaigner in the white house is the second half of the

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white house is the second half of the bush quail team white house sources say quayle and his staff think the bush campaign is a disaster campaign boss bob teeter and spokesman fitzwater are being blamed for staging tonight's news conference which will have a small audience democrats are gleeful when 8 pm rolls around i think most of america will still be listening to dr clifford huxtable now that's entertainment bush had hoped that in tonight's news conference he could trumpet his domestic efforts which he feels are going unnoticed such as the balanced budget amendment it was the first proposal as president that i set up the capitol hill in january of 1989 a balanced budget amendment to the constitution but as with many of bush's proposals he never fought hard for it not even last year after the gulf war when he failed to use his enormous popularity to push a domestic agenda there was an opportunity missed a year ago to establish how the president's programs painted a picture of the future of the country that the people could feel confidence in now the bush campaign is forced into chipping away at public confidence in ross perot by charging he could not work with congress fitzwater saying this is a man who has no history of sitting down with anybody tonight the president may avoid sarcastic jabs at parole but privately mr bush has been sarcastic while at the same time admitting that perot's popularity has been remarkable tom thanks john as for the balanced budget amendment favored by the president it is the financial equivalent of mom and apple pie who could be opposed well as nbc's andrea mitchell tells us tonight mom and apple pie have a lot more credibility than a balanced budget amendment tom the balanced budget amendment was sailing through congress until one of the senate's most powerful members started campaigning against it [Music] robert c byrd lobbying his colleagues to defeat the amendment that he calls a hoax do you think of any others at the moment

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do you think of any others at the moment might be persuaded it sounds very simple the amendment would require the president and congress to balance the budget effective two years after it has been approved by congress and ratified by three-fourths of the states so far all of the proposals for a balanced budget amendment are like somebody's granny cute feisty but with no teeth it's almost irresistible politicians can say they have voted to balance the budget without explaining how even some republicans think that's hypocritical we've had presidents republican presidents call upon the congress to pass a balanced budget not one of them has ever submitted a balanced budget supporters say it is a start what we clearly have to do is to take

it one step at a time and say to future congresses and future presidents you're going to have to balance the budget let me just suggest that many of us will probably vote for it and i i would also suggest that probably none of us think that it is the answer as appropriations chairman keeper of the senate's purse strings byrd can use more than sweet persuasion when you hear from the chairman of the appropriations committee it has a real effect and no one likes to vote against robert byrd byrd himself voted for a balanced budget 10 years ago he says he's learned better we've got to educate the american people as to the problems that go along with it and as to the pain and sacrifice that a balanced budget really entails if byrd can't persuade enough senators with his arguments or his power over their pet projects he's threatening a filibuster so even if the amendment passes the house it could die in the senate abortion and politics an explosive combination and with a three-way presidential race abortion has become a wild card with political risks for each side today it was ross perot at risk nbc's lisa myers they are the most highly motivated single issue voters in america and today

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single issue voters in america and today a leading anti-abortion activist warned them not to be fooled by ross perot everyone knows that clinton is sleazy when it comes to pro-life and family issues ross perot is more dangerous because he so far has been able to cloak himself in what i believe frankly he's a wolf in sheep's clothing the latest nbc news wall street journal poll found that one in four perot supporters favor making abortion illegal anti-abortion leaders believe these voters are unaware that perot favors abortion rights it is the woman's decision and would use tax dollars to pay for abortions for poor women be far better to get that procedure done properly than to pay the huge costs that could occur from the infections and the problems that occur from doing it some other way perrault agrees with abortion opponents on other issues he's inclined to require women to notify their husbands before an abortion and would require parental consent for teenagers and in return for bill clinton also thinks parents should be involved when teenagers want abortions but would require only that they be notified i'm against the repeal of roe v wade and i'm for freedom of choice he basically supports the abortion rights agenda down the line he promises taxpayer-funded abortions for poor women and to appoint supreme court justices who support abortion rights george bush once supported abortion rights but in 1980 when he became ronald reagan's vice president he flip-flopped now he favors a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion except in cases of rape incest and life of the mother let me be clear i support the right to life last night bush urged republicans who disagree with him on abortion and who may be flirting with perot to look at his entire record as president i am not persuaded that people all across this country vote on only one issue abortion however bush hopes that anti-abortion voters will

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hopes that anti-abortion voters will vote on one issue his advisers believe that abortion which figured to hurt bush in a two-man race now actually could help lisa myers nbc news watching and when will pearl officially announce that he is running for president we may have a clue he has approached the major tv networks about buying a half hour in prime time on june 27th well a race with three candidates is much more complicated than a campaign with two george bush and bill clinton will have to change their tactics bob kerr explains why in politics ross perot has what's called a broad base thirty percent of perot's supporters describe themselves as moderate 30 percent conservative and 24 percent liberal absent perot president bush and governor clinton also would need as broad a base as possible to win a majority but that's not the case in a three-way race the good news for bill clinton is that with a third-party candidate in the race he doesn't have to worry about winning 50 percent of the vote and so his cam he can see this as a liberating experience not only liberated enough to show he can laugh at himself but also free to target more directly and more often minorities unions homosexuals and other bases of democratic support so in a year when most votes will be cast in the suburbs a year in which clinton's initial effort was to emphasize the middle class and push his party toward the center we may hear more of this the president comes here and what does he say punish the writers i say let's clean up the mess the riots caused but as the teacher said let's

clean up the mess that caused the riots let's reinvent in these cities and rebuild america one group president bush could target at the expense of clinton and perot is anti-abortion activists an essential block in the president's support base and in a three-way contest mr bush also

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and in a three-way contest mr bush also could be expected to move to the right he's already trying to modify conservatives over breaking his no new taxes pledge going along with taxes was the biggest mistake of your presidency [Music] well i don't know about the biggest but yes republican pollster linda davao warns that what works in a three-way race can backfire if it becomes a two-way race the white middle-class voter is going to be critical because that's the group that perot has a growing attraction to right now now should he fade both major party candidates need to be in a position to inherit that vote during the month of october so president bush and governor clinton could find themselves walking a tightrope courting constituencies they need now to beat ross perot while keeping an eye on others they might ordinarily need more so far though this is anything but an ordinary year bob kerr nbc news washington advice about his re-election campaign jimmy klauske joins us tonight from the white house jim hello garrick despite increasing concerns from within his own republican ranks about ross perot president bush appears to have adopted the alfred newman strategy what me worry in a secluded weekend at camp david bush sought a little advice from british prime minister john major who had just squeaked through a tough re-election battle of his own major's advice stick with it some recent polls show however bush now trailing both ross perot and bill clinton he appears to relish the role of underdog i do better when i'm fighting i do better when i'm coming from behind and i'm also one who remembers four years ago maybe to this very minute being 17 points back so this is a weird year but many key republicans and bush supporters fear that bush is disengaged is not taking the parole challenge seriously they worry that perot has effectively tapped into america's fear and anger and the white house has no strategy to deal with it house minority whip newt gingrich fired

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house minority whip newt gingrich fired off a memo to the white house urging the president to get more aggressive take the issues and ross perot head on former republican strategist now one of perot's campaign managers ed rollins offered the white house a little advice it is a different environment and and if you're not if you're prepared to run in the old environment you're not going to do well on the earth's environment bush could be facing another political setback he goes to the environmental conference in rio this week but says he'll still refuse to sign a biodiversity treaty to save endangered species bush says it could cost americans their jobs so i have nothing to be apologetic for british prime minister major who will sign the treaty appeared to hint the problems with the treaty could be overcome i think we'll probably be able to solve them and in rio today bush's environmental chief tried to bail his boss out saying the u.s would support the treaty's intent we will support biological diversity in the rest of the world just as though we were a treaty participant bush is convinced that if americans understood his position on the environment they'd support him but then that's been the wrap against the bush white house and campaign they either can't sell the bush message or don't believe it themselves derrick thanks jimmy kasowski in washington in los angeles police chief darrell gates just doesn't seem to want to go gates is supposed to leave office by the end of this month but now this is nbc nightly news with tom brokaw reporting tonight from nbc news headquarters in new york good evening when ross perot first landed on the menu of presidential candidates many of president bush's advisors dismissed him as the flavor of the month well now they're desperately trying to get the perot recipe because it turns out to be so popular nbc's jim mikloszewski is at the white house tonight with the latest strategy there jim bush tom bush aides now admit that their campaign strategy just hasn't worked so bush will now become the prime time

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so bush will now become the prime time president campaigning from the white house today president bush was making his pitch for a balanced budget amendment and a photo op with state legislators we've been for it for a long long time but that may be news to many in fact bush is so frustrated with his inability to deliver any message that he's agreed to hit the big time on prime time tv look out george bush here comes h ross perot right here bush aids looked with envy at the way ross perot has been able to play the television talk shows to parlay his long shot candidacy into the lead and to avoid the issues i can't sound bite they even give credit to bill clinton who they say pulled off a risky appearance on late night tv so in a shift in strategy bush will make the rounds of many major news and talk shows not everyone thinks this prime time strategy will work i think it's a sign of how utterly out of ideas they are how frantic they are how desperate they are to do something to confront ross pro meanwhile the latest polls are all over the place one shows perot with a substantial lead bush and clinton tied the other has perrault and bush in a virtual dead heat but bush's own campaign manager worries that perrault is eating into the president's base stealing away those who voted for bush four years ago those people who for most of his term have approved of the president and who may not now not be totally committed to voting for him uh certainly those concerns so bush is playing heavily to his conservative corps pushing that balanced budget amendment and stressing jobs over the environment as he heads off to the rio conference thursday by the way that new bush tv campaign will get underway next week look for it in your local listings tom jim today ross perot is meeting with big city mayors who feel that they have been stiffed by the bush administration will that give perrault new credibility

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will that give perrault new credibility in washington well you know perot has said he wanted to talk to the experts so those big city mayors who were in fact frustrated with white house and congressional gridlock were more than happy to head to dallas and give pero a phil and a boost to his credibility i gather however that the white house and its television round of appearances is excluding certain people from an opportunity to interview the president well tom they think that some of the daytime early morning talk shows are perhaps more even-handed so they're going to avoid the evening network tv shows they say some of the network tv anchors have turned themselves into big time star prosecutors thank you jim michelszewski at the white house tonight as for bill clinton he too has a new approach he wants the country to believe that he's the only presidential candidate who can work with congress avoiding gridlock nbc's andrea mitchell tonight in a high risk strategy for someone trying to run as an outsider bill clinton says he'll work with congress now on legislation to be passed if he became president i expect this to be a real challenge to the congress i know that the next president has to be able to work with congress but we also have to challenge the congress to change congressional leaders were slow to embrace clinton texas senator lloyd benson only endorsed him last week that's partly because clinton has taken plenty of shots at congress like this tv ad during the new hampshire primary for 12 years the politicians in washington have raised their pay today clinton was trying to play both the inside and the outside game i was the first presidential candidate to criticize the so-called midnight pay raise clinton's priorities include proposals congress has either been unable to pass or that the president has vetoed campaign finance reform a waiting period for handgun purchases college tuition loan guarantees universal health care in the first 100 days in the first several months of his administration we can make substantial progress in enacting that

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enacting that kind of a national plan pushing hard for the strategy exhibits are from new york now you go to the american people and say for the first time in a quarter century you're going to get a government that works bush can't give you that perrault can't give you that he hasn't worked with anybody i think that the one way to break any deadlock is to elect governor clinton as president of course electing a democratic southern governor president is no guarantee that he can get along with congress and doing it during the campaign is a tough balancing act for clinton he's got to show that he can work with congress but at the same time how do you show that you can work with congress without getting in bed with them some democrats in congress don't want to follow clinton's lead especially since some liberals find a lot in clinton's program that's hard to swallow andrea mitchell nbc news washington the federal budget deficit 400 billion dollars in counting one of

the most expensive destructive forces in the lives of all taxpayers of this country and no realistic solution was in sight today the house of representatives debated and then defeated a largely symbolic balanced budget act which called for an end of the deficit by 1998. that was a victory for president bush meeting with republican congressional leaders at the white house he once again was pushing for a balanced budget amendment bill clinton was taking calls from the today show viewers today and one of the first questions what about the budget deficits [Music] we asked nbc's andrea mitchell for a reality check on the politics of the deficit in this year and ray was the latest tom all the candidates say they would control the deficit monster but there's a big gap between their promises and budget reality although george bush was pushing hard for the balanced budget amendment today he's never submitted a balanced budget fact the deficit has quadrupled over the reagan bush years fact bush's latest budget envisions getting the deficit down to only 180 billion dollars five years from now

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billion dollars five years from now bush's plan to beat the deficit over the next four years no new taxes limits on medicare and medicaid spending and a spurt of economic growth four percent a year for the next two years you don't have to touch social security to do this and i'm not going to do that we have made growth assumptions in there that can be easily met four four three two three two three two the economists that i have spoken to feel that uh absent some fundamental change uh that would be very difficult to achieve bush's first term as a guide uh the deficit's likely to increase not go down in the second term how would bill clinton handle the deficit he outlined his plan again this morning i have proposed to reduce by three percent a year the administrative budgets of every federal department that would save about 25 billion dollars right there clinton also said he'd save 75 billion dollars by controlling health costs he'd consider higher taxes on wealthy social security and medicare recipients he'd cut defense 40 not to reduce the deficit but to invest in domestic programs is it realistic to say you can cut those things sure is it realistic to say it'll balance the budget no then there's the small stuff that sounds like a big deal for example i would review the foreign aid budget line by line if you eliminated foreign aid this year the deficit would decline in almost you would hardly be able to notice it ross perot used to say he'd save 180 billion dollars by stopping waste fraud and abuse i assume the guys running the place know what they're doing okay that's their number 180 billion dollars to do that perrault would have to cut 15 percent from everything in the federal budget except interest on the debt the first refuge of scoundrels is to talk about waste fraud and abuse perrault also said he could save a hundred billion dollars from social security and medicare by cutting benefits for the rich to save that much he'd have to eliminate benefits for everyone earning over

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benefits for everyone earning over thirty thousand dollars a year confronted with the facts perot backed off give me a little time to get all this nail down and i will give you the very specific ways we will do this what about taxes he told jesse jackson he would raise them with katie couric six days later he switched so putting more money into government is a serious mistake and i have said we will not raise taxes his ideas are either naive or cynical at this point because they simply don't take into account either the magnitude of the problem or the complexity of these solutions if the balanced budget amendment passes one of these men would actually have to submit a balanced budget and so far none of them have come up with a way to do it on nbc's today program taking questions from viewers it was vintage perot a kind of texas two-step country boy charm with the impatience of a billionaire ceo and as nbc's lisa myers reports now a need to examine some of those answers lisa tom in selling himself perot sometimes misrepresented the facts he generally seemed more comfortable with sound bites than solutions during two hours on the today program parole called for pain and sacrifice to get this country back on track but when a viewer pressed him about proposed cuts in politically sensitive social security and medicare parole played loose with the facts i wondered if you really are going to not give people over 60 000 any social security benefits i have never said that in fact perrault has said that even though he has since retreated listen to his statement in april about how he would cut

spending to eliminate the deficit if you can get all the folks like me who don't need medicare and social security to give it up you got 100 billion but i'm going to say that let's assume you really just take it right off the top right off the top you only go for 20.

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right off the top you only go for 20. the congressional budget office confirmed again today that to save 20 billion dollars as perot proposed would mean denying social security and medicare to those with incomes over 60 thousand dollars today perrault also was asked about prohibiting his employees from wearing beards well i didn't prohibit beards and you can go into my companies today and you'll see all kinds of interesting people with beards perrault does allow beards today but he did not when he ran electronic data systems an eds employee manual obtained by associated press clearly states beards may not be worn parole continued to claim that he won't say anything negative about his opponents but then came this scathing attack on president bush's handling of iraq before the gulf war our president was sending delegations over to burp and diaper and pamper saddam hussein and tell him how nice he was perrault also blamed gridlock in washington on former government officials now lobbying for foreign governments foreign lobbyists in key positions in the republican party campaign this is why all this has fouled up pearl failed to mention that his own campaign manager ed rollins was until last week part of a lobbying firm which was a registered foreign agent for colombia ecuador and the philippines a senior parole advisor acknowledged this afternoon that perrault still has to work on some areas and that the learning curve is steep tom thank you lisa maximum relief xlx for regular people who sometimes aren't bill clinton and jesse jackson have a lot in common one is running for the president the other has both are democrats and want to defeat george bush both know the importance of the black vote to a democratic candidate but but today when the two met in washington at a meeting of jackson's rainbow coalition they didn't exactly sound like allies henry champ was there governor clinton knows the equation in a three-man presidential race the traditional democratic black vote is extremely important

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extremely important as is jesse jackson he promised the coalition he shared its goals help for the inner cities for education thank you very much and on race don't let this election be about willie horton or murphy brown don't let this election be about the denial of the need for new directions by all people of both parties in washington but clinton made it clear he wouldn't pander to jesse jackson he attacked the popular rap singer sister soldier a delegate to the conference the young singer's music is hard-edged [Music] [Applause] [Music] clinton accused the singer of racist remarks and of hatred she told the washington post about a month ago and i quote if black people kill black people every day why not have a weak and kill white people the singer denied that she ever made those statements and jackson was angry the rippling effects to this conference has been traumatizing i just told him the truth i said it really upset me when i read it in the morning clinton had a more productive meeting with urban mayors we stand shoulder to shoulder with him in this campaign we have endorsed bill clinton i for one believe this was an outstanding meeting it clearly reaffirms the commitment of bill clinton to help the towns and cities of america the clinton campaign wants to avoid any repetition of the 1988 democratic convention where the first days were dominated by jesse jackson and not the candidate michael dukakis accommodating jackson if it can be done at all they say must be done quickly and today was not a very good start henry champ nbc news washington and with us now is the reverend jesse jackson in washington reverend jackson today you didn't sound very enthusiastic about bill clinton you introduced him to your conference as the next democratic party nominee quote not the next president what signal

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quote not the next president what signal are you sending well our concern today was to put forth to mr clinton a massive plan to reinvest in and to rebuild the country to address this message gap that rossville road now now stands in if we put forth a massive plan to put america back to work we're going to engender much

enthusiasm uh gary things have changed but three persons in the race uh when the threshold was 51 percent with two people is down to 35 or 34 now that means that the urban voter women workers and youth i have added value so as the process opens up our pure simple has been to mr clinton and put forth a massive plan okay let me cut through this because i think a lot of people are confused by many of the things you're saying basically are you going to support bill clinton as a fellow democrat well i do intend to support the nominee of the party that's going to be bill clinton i would suggest to you that today the basic focus however was on the plan to inspire the country you're leading about sister soldier i must say that uh his uh diversion from the economic development agenda to her was seen by is a kind of william horton which was unfortunate and i must say quite diversionary uh and i hope that when he attempts to speak to her that matter which has such damaging ramifications will be addressed by him okay obviously you're very upset about what bill clinton said uh today at that conference but with perot in the race with ross perot there does that mean that black votes could move away from bill clinton any significant well it's not just a matter of black votes i think that the presence of ross perot simply opens up the process and creates greater competition for all votes and those who dare get those votes must earn them they will not inherit them whoever has the most effective economic plan for revitalization for employment for economic growth will certainly be the next president and will earn it i hope that the democratic party seizes this moment that bill clinton will embrace this opportunity

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will embrace this opportunity and put forth such a plan partying for the country jesse jackson washington thank you very much let's turn now to ross perot he found himself at the center of a controversy today a texas newspaper disclosed that he complained back in 1983 that schools spend a disproportionate amount of time on thanks stone we'll see more of that interview with boris yeltsin tomorrow night on dateline nbc as yeltsin prepared to meet with president bush dan quayle had a meeting of his own today the vice president paid a visit to cardinal john o'connor in new york city among the topics discussed abortion the two men both have been highly vocal in recent days about their strongly anti-abortion views it's no accident that the vice president is mixing religion and politics this election year it is a powerful combination in presidential politics when all the candidates are eager to tap into nbc's jim cummins has a report [Music] these are the people who may cast the deciding votes in a three-man race for president evangelical christians they vote in large numbers have a certain intensity about the political process helped elect ronald reagan president in 1988 they energized the campaign of televangelist pat robertson after he dropped out of the race they overwhelmingly supported george bush who was still in their prayers our lord and our father in heaven we're grateful for our marvelous president but there are growing signs that ross perot is splitting the evangelical christian vote recently robertson asked viewers to call in and say who they support half said bush 47 said perrault and 3 percent clinton the significance of that is is that in 1988 president bush or then vice president bush got 83 percent of what is known as the evangelical vote that's why dan quayle is bashing murphy brown in the so-called media elite now i wear their scorn as a badge of honor that plays well in the heat of the

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that plays well in the heat of the moment at a southern baptist convention but polls indicate many of these people have ambivalent feelings about the bush administration across america live this is point of view in dallas john clements and kirby anderson say the evangelicals who call their network radio talk show are truly uninspired about this election don you're on the air now from orange city florida i've personally always been of the opinion that you need to vote for somebody but this year i've changed my mind if they decide to stay home if they decide to go fishing if they decide not to be involved then i don't think that george bush is going to have the same kind of constituency that elected first ronald reagan and then elected him since the president takes the toughest stand against abortion he's more likely to get the support of these people but he has to turn that support into votes to win a three-man race jim cummings nbc news dallas when nightly news continues an exclusive report on how industries are ignoring as george bush showed boris yeltsin around washington today bill clinton prepared to meet with the russian leader tomorrow morning today clinton was in

las vegas speaking to the association of state county and municipal employees delivering his message of reinvestment in america ross perot is preparing for a campaign swing through california tomorrow while a new usa today poll shows that the texas billionaire may be slipping 34 percent chose perot that's down five points from early june virtually tied now with george bush clinton trails at 24 percent perot's loss was a gain for the undecided one factor may be the closer scrutiny now being given to ross perot what he stands for what he says as nbc's lisa myers reports now what what perot says sometimes bends the truth to the breaking point very fortunate ross perot loves to lecture reporters about getting the facts straight these are facts not that facts matter not that facts matter but these are the facts the facts killed you on that one now if you look at the numbers not that

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now if you look at the numbers not that anybody wants the facts see because it is so much fun just to throw tar around however in a number of important instances ross perot's version of the facts does not mesh with either the public record or others recollections of events example number one breaking with general motors in 1986. to portray himself as the more public-minded of the feuding parties parole offered to put the 700 million dollars gm paid to buy him out in an escrow account i cannot accept this money without first giving general motors directors another chance to consider this decision this money will be held in escrow until december the 15th but when questioned under oath in february 1989 perrault admitted what associates knew for some time that this was a publicity stunt contrary to numerous public statements there was no escrow account still eight months after this sworn testimony perot's version of the gm split continued to include an escrow account a statement he knew was false i thought it was the wrong thing to do put the money in escrow for two weeks so they could think it over example number two his support of richard nixon in 1970 specifically has offered to fund a pro-nixon think tank they said i offered 10 million dollars to create a think tank that never happened however white house documents indicate that perrault did promise the money during a personal meeting with the president and during frequent meetings with aides the money was never delivered example number three perot's trip to vietnam in early 1987 although many of perrault's efforts on behalf of americans missing in action were welcomed reagan administration officials charged that this time he went too far going to vietnam at a critical time and revealing the u.s negotiating strategy parole claims the trip had the blessing of the white house they knew it they approved it they gave me an agenda of things to cover the vietnamese i did exactly what they asked me to do

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i did exactly what they asked me to do however a white house statement at the time says the white house wasn't even aware perrault had gone to vietnam until he returned and briefed the president example number four also involved the p-o-w mia issue this time hal perot obtained what he said was compromising information and photographs of a senior pentagon official with whom he was feuding an undercover policeman from the washington area knocks on my hotel door and says i am out on the streets every night and i am seeing something that is an absolute security violation and here is the file the undercover policeman jim beatty says the opposite that perrault came to him he called me up and said that he learned that i had information about a party that he was interested in and would i'd be willing to talk to him about it pero now says vadi may be right perrault's apparent habit of taking liberty with the truth may be partly a result of the fact that billionaires are rarely challenged however critics say the trait runs deeper that perrault has the ability to say that night is day then convincingly deny that he ever said it lisa myers nbc news washington clinton was doing some world-class politicking of his own today breakfast with boris yeltsin in washington d.c nbc's andrea mitchell has more on clinton's foreign policy credentials andrea stone today's meeting was bill clinton's big chance to show that a governor from arkansas can play on the world stage only a few yards from the white house clinton tried to shore up a perceived weakness his lack of foreign policy experience for yeltsin meeting the likely democratic nominee was a way to hedge his bets i know he is in favor of active cooperation with russia yeltsin even kept the bushes waiting a few minutes for breakfast while he spent extra time with clinton

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extra time with clinton afterwards clinton spoke out forcefully for helping russia we should join ranks across party lines to pass this package it is very much in the interests of the united states to do that clinton has been calling for aid to russia since before new hampshire when other democrats were demanding that money be spent on america first and the president was still dragging his feet on an aid package i know it may be bad politics to be for any kind of foreign aid program in today's economic environment but we owe it to the people who defeated communism a clinton foreign policy would be very different from george bush's he'd put less pressure on israel would be quicker to support freedom movements abroad in places like south africa would not endorse trading preferences for regimes like the chinese would cut troops abroad by twice as much as bush would what about his lack of experience president bush did not call it right on the trip to japan he did not call it right on the trip to panama he did not call it right with regard to the rio de janeiro treaty so experience doesn't necessarily mean you don't stumble lee hamilton is a key advisor on foreign policy so is former deputy secretary of state warren christopher but clinton also listens to more liberal democrats like anthony lake a former carter official who shared clinton's strong opposition to the vietnam war after 12 years of republicans a new cast of characters we had the same people carrying out the same policies even though the world has undergone one of the most dramatic revolutions in modern period clinton is betting that with the end of the cold war americans will be more worried about problems at home than threats abroad stone thanks andrea and what about the third man of this election year ross perot like george bush was in california today nbc's lisa myers is with him not since the days of ronald reagan has sacramento seen this kind of crowd at a political event and ross perot did not disappoint them he ridiculed his opponent's struggle to deal with him and his rebellious

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deal with him and his rebellious supporters the president had a press conference wow governor clinton is on television playing the saxophone and vice president quayle is trying to figure out how to spell potato it was the first time that perot has taken a real slap at clinton who was trying to co-opt perrault as the candidate of change the democratic candidate is now running as an outsider against his own party now only in america would you do that otherwise it was vintage perot lots of texas horse sense a laundry list of national problems and no specifics on how to solve them we've got to rebuild our cities is there any question in your mind that we can clean up the problems in los angeles if we'll do it this was the first stop on a three-day swing to thank volunteers so far they've gotten parole on the ballot in 15 states have submitted signatures in six more and will submit them in four more within the next week but parole may be hottest here in california where anger and disillusionment are high he's uh the cowboy on the white horse that's going to get get all the bad guys out of town after weeks of praying parole would fade his opponents temporarily have a strategy to cope clinton by reminding voters how little they know bush by having surrogates portray perrault as risky it would be a serious mistake to replace a genuine statesman with a temperamental tycoon who has contempt for the constitution of the united states a senior parole advisor says quail's attacks aren't hurting but unflattering media accounts are the campaign's top priority in the next three weeks is a tv advertising blitz to counter those negative images lisa myers nbc news sacramento an active day today in the campaign for president all the players were on the

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president all the players were on the field the man who currently holds the job was in southern california president bush offered help for the state's reeling defense industry and courted conservative republicans many of whom now lead toward ross perot back in washington vice president quayle took parole head on saying he was capable of quote irrational behavior unquote quayle said perot goofed by hiring political pros as handlers and claimed the perot campaign is beginning to fizzle the democrats had no time for perot or the republicans today they were too busy putting their own house in order jesse jackson faulted bill clinton's character in a new york times interview unhappy about clinton's criticism of a rap singer bill clinton has declared a bit of independence from jackson and jackson doesn't like it nbc's kenley jones governor jesse

jackson time and again today clinton said he doesn't understand why jackson objected to his condemnation of rap singer sister soldier's alleged suggestion that maybe black should kill whites maybe he wants to stand on the side of that kind of division but that's inconsistent with everything he was trying to do with the rainbow coalition which i supported so this whole thing is a mystery to me jackson says clinton's criticism of sister soldier before his rainbow coalition was a sneak attack demonstrating what he called a character flaw in clinton let's think of what the real flaw is a ploy to divert attention away from the agenda that we designed to rebuild america like other democratic presidential candidates in the past clinton is having to deal with the jackson factor in 1984 walter mondale was the party's nominee and bob beckel was his campaign manager jesse jackson is nobody to be fooled with in these situations he is a master of bringing issues like this to a critical mass and the question is how does it fall out susan estrich who was michael dukakis's

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estrich who was michael dukakis's campaign manager in 1988 says bringing up the character issue won't reverend jackson has gone for the jugular he has gone for clinton's weakness and i'm very troubled by that i would have thought that reverend jackson would like to see a democrat in the white house just a few days ago atlanta mayor maynard jackson said clinton was right to criticize sister soldier right but today he refused to criticize jackson's remarks about clinton i'm not going to comment on my friend jesse jackson there is disagreement about jackson's ability to deliver black votes for the democratic nominee in november and lately he has been flirting with ross perot what clinton must decide is whether he has more to gain by pleasing jackson or standing up to him apparently he has chosen the latter kenley jones nbc news atlanta the country today with president bush facing perhaps the toughest challenge he tried to win back support from california conservatives who read his lips when he promised no new taxes john cochran now on the president and the taxpayers to win california this fall president bush must win back taxpayers still angry because he reneged on his no new taxes promise so today bush stepped into the lions den followers of howard jarvis who died six years ago but who is still revered by conservatives for the revolt he led against high taxes on homes that resulted in the limitation on property taxes known as proposition 13 which was upheld by the supreme court just two days ago today bush tried to jump on the bandwagon that has threatened to run over him from coast to coast people are mobilizing from for change and the air is crackling with the feeling that howard jarvis made his battle cry i am mad as hell but many taxpayers are mad at george bush his solution was simply not to mention his backtracking on taxes two years ago and to try to redirect the anger at liberal democrats it is your duty

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at liberal democrats it is your duty to your family to fight high taxes in government waste and when liberal elitists ridicule you and say we have social problems because of you because you're greedy well naturally you stand up and fight back fight back that was also the advice california republican leaders urged on bush telling him he must attack ross perot now not later he still won't refer to perot by name but by the time bush got to texas he was complaining about a candidate who offers only glib talk and sound bites let somebody else become the darling of the talking heads on television and bush took a shot at perot's opposition to the gulf war against saddam hussein it is just plain irresponsible and out of touch with reality to suggest that a president should take a poll and get a tax increase before he leads the world against aggression what the people want from their leaders is leadership and bush's aides say he'll get even more advice to get tough when he holds up next month with his 1988 campaign manager secretary of state jim baker at baker's wyoming retreat and they'll be talking about a lot more than just foreign policy john cochran nbc news dallas and as for ross perot he was in massachusetts today after qualifying to be on the ballot there with twice as many signatures as required that makes now 16 states in which perrault has qualified and he got some loud support today in territory that usually belongs to the democrats here's fred bricks they marched for parole today thousands of them from city hall to boston common all new england was represented and in massachusetts bureau has been leading clinton and bush in the polls for two weeks yes that's massachusetts many may still remember this as a liberal state thinking of the kennedys and mike dukakis but times have changed

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and mike dukakis but times have changed as a republican governor now and 46 of its 3 million voters are registered independents i've always leaned towards democrats but they've forgotten the working people i'm just tired i think everybody is lots of people from new hampshire here who usually voted republican not anymore why is that because we finally found a candidate that we can back without feeling ashamed a thousand points of light turned into 400 billion every year being wasted in government in new england where the recession has been long and recovery slow perot's usual themes played especially well are you willing to do whatever it takes to rebuild the job base in this great country even if that means not voting for a democrat as so many here are used to doing vote for bill clinton talk like that sends groans to the national democratic establishment here it is particularly upsetting and the republican establishment in states like new hampshire and maine isn't too happy to see perot's numbers either that's fine with him the two parties ask [Music] who are these people anyhow well i'll tell you who these people are i also tell you who these people are these are people who love their country this is our country we're taking it back back to the future or so his supporters would like to believe fred briggs nbc news boston and bill clinton was campaigning today in arkansas where he's offering some personal advice to high school students saying never quit in life even if you make a few mistakes meanwhile new york mayor david dinkins offered to mediate the dispute the continuing dispute between clinton and jesse jackson over clinton's recent criticism of rap singer sister soldier and next the supreme court and butch reynolds right to run now to politics after weeks of taking hits from ross perot george bush landed one of his own

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perot george bush landed one of his own today following reports that perrault had bush under investigation bill clinton meanwhile mapped out his economic plan today we have nbc's john cochran and andrea mitchell in washington with details first john cochran at the white house john jane the president spoke out today after some of his friends told him last week that he should stop acting like a gentleman with ross perot and should start mud wrestling now before it's too late bush could not pass up the opportunity to exploit an alleged [__] and perot's armor a washington post report that in the 1980s perot so disliked and distrusted bush that he investigated not only the then vice president but two of his sons well i i better count to ten there's something not very pleasant about all this and let me tell you this it's fine to investigate on one's own the vice president of the united states no evidence to support any investigation but i feel a little tense about it when they if the reports are true of uh investigating my children my family for something uh i don't think that's particularly american dan quayle accused perot of having a compulsion to investigate we know that he's investigated employees of his and former employees of of his imagine ross perot having the irs the fbi and the cia under his control who would be investigated next perot wasn't responding today but his top media adviser jim squires says the republican strategy is obvious make voters afraid of ross perot the whole thing in politics is fear we always vote for who we are most comfortable with the news media are also honing in on questions about perot's character this is new in the past the media have

01:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4201s)

this is new in the past the media have mostly focused on perot's reluctance to offer specific proposals and programs perrault has managed to finesse questions so far about his lack of specifics but now he must late to rest a potential killer issue questions about his character jane thanks john andrea mitchell bill clinton stayed out of the bush parole fight today he was busy spelling out the details of his program to rebuild the economy andrea jane bill clinton is trying to get himself out of third place by being more specific than his opponents about how he would handle the budget deficit it's not a strategy without risks responding to cries for help from the nation's mayors clinton told their annual meeting that he would spend 20 billion dollars a year rebuilding the cities we're going to get this money to pay for this program by savings by cuts and by raising money where it can be fairly raised who would pay more people with taxable income of more than 140 000 a year would pay a new top rate of 35 or 36 percent millionaires would pay a surtax on top of that u.s subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies would pay huge tax increases and people earning more than a

hundred twenty five thousand dollars a year would pay higher medicare taxes we must say to the wealthy you have to pay your fair share during the primaries clinton said the first step toward recovery should be a middle-class tax cut now he would cut that tax break in half a concession to the reality of the deficit and to critics like paul tsongas the fact is the middle class tax cut is now almost like a political skunk that most people recognize at a time of massive deficit you don't do something like that songs and other critics say clinton still falls short on deficit cuts he once talked about eliminating the deficit in four years now he would cut it in half by 1996 and his plan avoids some tough political choices no social security tax increase for the rich something he had said he'd consider no gasoline tax and some of his spending

01:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4321s)

no gasoline tax and some of his spending cuts like the line item veto are iffy so i guess i think it's a step in the right direction but doesn't get where i would like to see it go but clinton got raves from the mayors including one who had flirted with perot i think it's up to mr bush and i think it's up to mr perrault now to come forward and offer the people of america cities how they're going to put people back to work tonight house budget chairman leon panetta told nbc news that clinton must still do more to reduce the deficit but panetta praised clinton for being much more specific than either bush or perot the war of words between ross perot and george bush keeps escalating perot today said that some bushed campaign tactics would make hitler's propaganda chief proud and the white house called perrault paranoid nbc's lisa myers has more this was to have been the day that ex-navy man ross perot celebrated his success in getting on the maryland ballot instead he spent most of the day denying reports that he has investigated everyone from president bush to his own employees in an interview with bryant gumbel he labeled such reports fantasy and the result of republican dirty tricks republican dirty tricks committee has been carefully putting this together for weeks this has nothing to do with anything with politics and it's factually wrong president bush is to blame he is in charge of the whole process that party does not run out there out of control later at his first formal news conference parole portrayed himself as the victim of a conspiracy between republicans and the media so there has been a very highly organized effort building up over a period of weeks climaxing in this massive and in false assault with nobody checking facts occurring hoping that somehow this will impact me however the authors of various stories detailing perro's investigative zeal vigorously denied any republican involvement and white house spokesman marlon fitzwater said mr perot's paranoia knows no bounds peru

01:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4442s)

mr perot's paranoia knows no bounds peru repeatedly denied a washington post report that he investigated then vice president bush he said he did give a reporter information that might involve bush perrault also denied investigating bush's children saying he merely informed bush of rumors i called him father the father and said i have no idea if there's any truth to this or not but i felt you should know this is going around in fact parole produced a letter from bush in 1986 thanking him for the information which left the white house struggling to explain this presidential reaction monday if the reports are true of investigating my children my family for something i don't think that's particularly american peru insisted that he'd only used private investigators three or four times all when employees were suspected of impropriety i'm not running around like sherlock holmes trying to do anything a senior parole advisor says the last two weeks have been damaging and that today's denials aren't likely to completely erase the image of inspector perrault lisa myers nbc news washington the presidential election is more than four months away but you'd never know it by the sound and the fury that's already out there today once again most of it came from ross perot and the republican guard around george bush nbc's lisa myers has a report from the front parole was filing petitions in connecticut today but instead of locking horns with george bush he was doing battle with the president's men republican chairman rich bond demanded that perot put up or shut up about alleged republican dirty tricks these are totally wild and reckless charges that he can't substantiate and like so much of what else ross perot talks about this is a figment of his imagination perot shot back he said republicans don't know how to create jobs or rebuild the country only how to attack did any of you hear the larry king show last night

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4560s)

last night did you sense that the man who runs the republican party was a little tight when he called in i used the wrong word i mean uptight in fact nobody looked good in what turned into a verbal brawl there is no such thing as dirty tricks at this republican party what about opposition research bro i listen patiently to you and i'm just simply responding that we're not doing dirty tricks against ross pro or anything but you're ducking on opposition research the republican party does have an opposition research team so do the democrats so do the clinton and bush campaigns but this generally involves nothing more sinister than combing through newspapers and public records and producing something like this perro's contradictory statements on taxes so far there's no evidence that republicans had anything to do with the stories perot was complaining about republicans have exploited these stories to paint a negative picture of perot a temperamental tycoon he's not fit to be president of the united states it's very very scary today bill clinton seemed to be enjoying the fuse they can fight with each other now in november as far as i'm concerned in fact clinton's advisors have been calling reporters pointing out negative stories about perot that's not dirty tricks it's politics lisa myers nbc news washington the democratic national convention begins in just over two weeks and the stage was set today for a possible floor fight over the party's platform drafters of the party's platform rejected all four economic planks proposed by former candidate paul tsongas going instead with the positions favored by bill clinton the document stresses economic growth and includes measures to stimulate business but there is no capital gains tax cut that and the other tsongas proposals will be debated and discussed perhaps even fought over on the convention floor and paul song this is with us now in massachusetts uh thank you for joining us sir on this weekend you're going to have 555 55 delegates at

01:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4680s)

you're going to have 555 55 delegates at the convention that's enough to make your voice heard how hard will you fight the platform on these economic issues well it's not so much that we're looking for a fight this is bill clinton's convention and he should do well there and i don't want to diminish her from that but the fact is that for the first time in a decade you're going to have a major party talking about the fact that you need to make tough choices in this country given what this country is facing so what we want to do is have a discussion uh we'll have our vote we don't want to be contentious but i think very clearly that this country needs to accept the fact that there's a lot of hard decision making ahead and hopefully we can begin that process well sir are you saying it seems to me that you are saying that bill clinton is not prepared to state those tough choices that have to be made well it's not i think that's true of of democratic and republican politicians generally he just went through 12 years of reagan bush money in america and we're now suffering from that and it seems to me that the democratic platform is probably the best democratic platform in terms of its outreach and economics in a long time i just don't think it goes far enough well i think it's a matter of discussion on how far you want to go well let's go to ross pearl right now he's saying some hard choices haven't been made yes he's not specific but he says they have to be made in many ways is perrault offering the kind of democratic direction democratic party program that you would like to see well i think in theory um a lot of what ross perot just in terms of for his blush could be attractive but the fact is there's been no articulation on specific issues so i don't think anybody knows at this point i'm not one of those democrats who goes around trashing ross perot but i think it's very important to know exactly where people stand at this point that is very unclear all right paul tsongas we'll see what emerges of what clarity emerges from the democratic convention in two weeks time thank you for being with us today from massachusetts it is just uh two weeks from monday that the convention opens

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4800s)

the convention opens and the main unanswered question is who will bill clinton pick as his vice presidential running mate that has been called the first presidential choice a candidate makes andrea mitchell now on the importance of making the right choice bill clinton has been the man who wasn't there almost unnoticed while george bush and ross perot have been slugging it out it could be an advantage clinton has had time to narrow his choice of a running mate probably the most important decision he'll make in the campaign i'm doing my best to pick someone who would be a good president and someone who really understands what's happening to most people in this country today i was wondering if you could please spell potato for us there's

no e on the end clinton delights in ridiculing dan quayle in choosing a running mate his top priority is to create a sharp contrast with the haphazard way bush selected quail four years ago wanted someone with the credibility and experience lloyd benson brought to the 1988 race senator i knew jack kennedy jack kennedy was a friend of mine senator you're no jack kennedy it's a defining decision it says something about who the candidate is and what he's going to do for the country clearly it's a very very important decision in little rock this weekend clinton is listening to close advisors among whom hillary clinton is the most important in a three-way race choosing someone from a big state is less important than finding someone who can offset clinton's perceived weaknesses he needs to have people say wow that's an interesting choice wow that's an important choice research has been done on a number of senators al gore of tennessee jay rockefeller of west virginia harris wofford of pennsylvania bob carey of nebraska

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=4920s)

of nebraska and from the house lee hamilton of indiana gore brings a military record foreign policy experience strong environmental credentials and familiarity with the rigors of a national campaign rockefeller is solid strong on health care a very good fundraiser wofford is older compatible with clinton strong on domestic issues carrie is a war hero and former opponent hamilton is highly respected and has strong foreign policy credentials then there is mario cuomo and clinton are hardly compatible and it's difficult to imagine cuomo playing second fiddle to anyone but some democrats believe it is the bold stroke clinton needs mario cuomo probably would drive george bush crazy would be the most aggressive campaigner secondly brings a tremendous amount of stature to the ticket some advisers want clinton to ignore political experience and choose an outsider to counteract perot but clinton is more likely to pick someone who is safe and solid knowing that vice presidential candidates are only noticed if they mess up andrea mitchell nbc news washington as a political issue in the is in this presidential election year as abortion is where the candidates stand you may be surprised to learn which candidate now has the latest upper hand in a very close race nbc's andrea mitchell has his name tonight bill clinton's morning stroll through midtown manhattan was made even more pleasant by a new poll showing him leading the three-way race for the first time in the washington post abc news survey clinton was favored by 33 percent of registered voters to 31 percent for ross perot and 28 for george bush statistically that's a dead heat what's important to clinton is that he picked up support from democrats who had previously chosen perot the poll suggests that people are giving clinton a second look as pero and bush slug it out clinton said his improved standing is the result of reaching voters directly

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=5040s)

the result of reaching voters directly through call-in shows so he was back on the today program this morning stressing his position on abortion i would appoint judges to the supreme court with a long history of advocacy of the bill of rights including the right to privacy including the right to choose later in washington he helped kick off the campaign to pass legislation legalizing abortion that is my commitment to you thank you very much and god bless you all thank you it was a day to shore up his democratic base he spent an hour and a half with the congressional black caucus many of them say privately that they resent jesse jackson's tactics their endorsement could help offset jackson's criticism of clinton we smell victory in the air there's no question about it he also spoke to another key democratic group jewish leaders clinton's next big chance to get favorable notice will be when he chooses a running mate sometime in the next two weeks the abortion ruling makes one thing certain i expect my running mate to be pro-choice and i don't want to get into the details of what that might mean the most important thing is that as president i am pro-choice clinton needs a home run on his vice presidential choice a smooth convention and no more trouble from jesse jackson something no recent democratic nominee has been able to achieve andrea mitchell nbc news at the capitol time now for commentary from john chancellor who's been watching a lot of political dialogue these days john and television tom millions of us went to bed last night with ross perot and got up this morning with bill clinton we got a good look at both of them perrault answered questions for more than an hour on abc television and clinton responded to telephone calls for one hour today on nbc's today program it was good

politics and good television it was not the slick junk we get in 30 second tv ads not the stage shows we get when we see a candidate answering questions from hand-picked supporters what we saw last night and this morning was an honest dialogue between good candidates and smart

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4K-uvDJynI&t=5160s)

candidates and smart voters i had my doubts when this talk show business began i worry that the questions will be too easy not to worry the questions have been serious and well informed three cheers for the voters the press still has to ask its questions and do its job trained reporters keep track of the candidates what they say to different audiences in different places they keep the candidates honest journalism hasn't lost its importance the today show regards call-in sessions only as a supplement to regular news stories and interviews nevertheless these call-in sessions are very useful something good is happening parole last night on nbc clinton this morning on a abc clinton this morning on nbc and president bush tries his version tomorrow morning on cbs if the candidates want to continue if the programs want to keep putting them on the air this could be a year of intelligent political discourse and wouldn't that be something and it's a good thing there are no more than three networks right thank you

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